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Ground Burning under the Aggressors' Feet

AT dawn on October 15 Nguyen-van-Troi, a young South Vietnamese patriot, was executed in a Saigon prison. While the death warrant was issued by the Saigon military tribunal there are facts which indicate that the patriot was executed on orders from the U.S. Embassy.

Before his execution the young hero tore off the bandage with which the commander of the firing squad wanted to blindfold him and shouted: "Down with the U.S. imperialists!"

These words brought out once again the culprit really responsible for the tragedy of the people of South Vietnam—U.S. imperialism. The thousands of Vietnamese killed by the punitive expeditions and in clashes with the police, those killed by the napalm bombing, those shot in the prisons and concentration camps on court orders or even without trial—these crimes can be traced to U.S. imperialism, the real master of the servile ruling clique in South Vietnam.

Since the beginning in 1961 of their "undeclared war" against the people of South Vietnam the U.S. imperialists have guided the military operations and repressions, aiming to maintain at all costs their control over South Vietnam which the Pentagon considers to be vital in the struggle against the national-liberation movement in South-East Asia.

Everything is subordinated to this goal, for the attainment of which the U.S.A. is spending half a billion dollars annually. It has flooded South Vietnam with arms and war material; it is constantly building up the strength of its military personnel and changing its discredited puppets. In the past year the puppet rulers have been changed three times, not to mention minor reshuffles and shifts. The rulers owed their power only to bayonets and the military aid of the Pentagon. Each began his career by issuing decrees intensifying the repressions against the patriots, by promising his Pentagon masters to extend the war against the patriots.

The military junta headed by Nguyen-ngoc-Tho and Zyong-van-Minh which succeeded Ngo Ding Diem sought to "improve" the legal system by . . . adding to the number of courts and reinforcing the penal system. Its rule lasted for only 90 days.

Scared by the successes of the liberation forces, the U.S. rulers hurriedly replaced the junta with the "strong man"—General Nguyen Khanh, who a few days after assuming office outlawed political parties, groups, associations and individuals who support Communist ideology or favour the "neutralist thesis". Under his decree these organisations and individuals were charged with "endangering the security of the state".

Khanh was succeeded in office by the so-called "civilians".

The terror carried out by the various puppets is wholly in line with U.S. policy in South Vietnam, a policy aimed at physical extermination of the patriots who are foiling the designs to turn the country into a colony of U.S. imperialism. This was blatantly admitted by the U.S. *Gazette and Daily*. The more one ponders over the alarming course of events in South Vietnam, the paper commented, the more one realises that the Pentagon and, no doubt, the CIA, have imposed on the White House a policy which has nothing in common with wisdom, decency and democracy. This view, the paper continued, is backed up by the news coming from South Vietnam showing that the accent is invariably placed on murder, which, in turn, demonstrates the character of the U.S. operations in that country. The aim of the U.S. policy in South Vietnam, the paper concluded, is to kill.

And kill they do. They killed Nguyen-van-Troi merely because he had fought on behalf of his people. They fired on a demonstration in Quang-ngai and Binh-dinh and ruthlessly bombed the Phu-hu'u district, killing or wounding over 500 civilians. On November 7 more than 100 tons of bombs were dropped on the civilian population of Fuok Thanh in retaliation for the guerilla raid on the U.S. air base in Bien Hoa. The Saigon authorities are now preparing to kill another group of patriots—the student Le-hong-Tu' and his comrades.

The growing terror is yet another sign of the hopelessness of the position of the United States and its agents in South Vietnam. They cannot kill all the people. More and more people are joining in the struggle against them. The liberation movement is gaining in scale not only in the countryside but in the towns as well. Even the CIA chieftains are coming to see that "victory" in South Vietnam is more than doubtful.

All the signs are that the patriot forces headed by the National Liberation Front are rendering impossible victory for the aggressors and their puppets; day after day the liberation army and guerilla detachments strike fresh blows at them. The strength of the people of South Vietnam derives from the just character of their struggle, from the solidarity and support accorded them by progressive people everywhere.